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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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SUBJECT: FURTHER DETAILS ON JULY 27 GOK STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH UGANDA

REF: NAIROBI 7844

1. AFTER READING GOK STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH UGANDA (SEE REFTEL) TO CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND NEWSMEN, FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI ASKED LATTER TO LEAVE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ROOM TEMPORARILY. WAIYAKI THEN TOLD DIPLOMATS THAT GOK HAS INVITED OAU SECRETARY GENERAL WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA TO COME TO KENYA TO INVESTIGATE
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SITUATION ON UGANDAN BORDER AND TO VISIT PORT OF MOMBASA

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IN ORDER TO SEE FOR HIMSELF THAT UGANDAN GOODS ARE MOVING FREELY IN AND OUT OF THE PORT. IN ADDITION, WAIYAKI SAID GOK PREPARED TO RECEIVE FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM UN AND WOULD ALSO WELCOME BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN UGANDAN AND KENYAN MINISTERS TO RESOLVE CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.

2. WAIYAKI ASKED DIPLOMATS TO REPORT BACK TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT KENYA IS EXTREMELY SORRY TO HAVE TO DIVERT RESOURCES TO ARMAMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER SPENT ON DEVELOPMENT; HOWEVER, KENYA IS DETERMINED TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF, ALTHOUGH IT IS HOPED THAT WAR CAN BE AVOIDED.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH NEWSMEN, AGAIN PRESENT, WAIYAKI "CONFIRMED" PRESENCE OF LIBYAN MIRAGE AIRCRAFT IN UGANDA BUT DECLINED TO SAY HOW MANY. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH WAIYAKI GIVEN ASSURANCES OF DIRECT OR INDIRECT US MILITARY SUPPORT FOR KENYA, WAIYAKI WAS NONCOMMITTAL EXPLAINING THAT THIS HAD BEEN "PRIVATE TALK" CONTENTS OF WHICH HE HAD REPORTED TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA WHO IS ONLY GOK OFFICIAL WHO COULD RESPOND TO SUCH A QUESTION. ASKED WHETHER KENYA WOULD RESUME NORMAL OIL DELIVERIES TO UGANDA IF PAID FOR IN HARD CURRENCY AND IF DRIVERS WERE WILLING TO DRIVE TRUCKS TO UGANDA, WAIYAKI REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE ADDING THAT GOK WOULD EVEN PERMIT OIL TO GO TO UGANDA BY RAIL IF TRUCK DRIVERS WERE UNAVAILABLE. (THIS STATEMENT APPEARS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE WITH IMPLICATION IN REFTEL STATEMENT THAT UGANDA MUST PAY ALL OUTSTANDING DEBTS IF FREIGHT DELIVERIES, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING OIL, ARE TO BE NORMALIZED.)

4. COMMENT: TONE AND MANNER OF RELEASE OF LATEST GOK STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH UGANDA ARE FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT GOK IS DETERMINED TO "TOUGH" IT OUT DESPITE CONTINUING THREATS OF MILITARY ATTACK BY UGANDA. STATEMENT LISTS SEVEN CONDITIONS WHICH UGANDA MUST MEET IF IT WISHES "TO LIVE IN PEACE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORMALIZE RELATIONS" WITH KENYA. FIRST SIX POINTS HAVE BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY, I.E., UGANDA MUST REMOVE TROOPS FROM BORDER, UGANDA MUST STOP CLAIMING KENYAN TERRITORY, UGANDA MUST STOP KILLING KENYANS RESIDENT IN UGANDA, UGANDA MUST STOP THREATENING TO USE FORCE AGAINST KENYA, UGANDA MUST STOP HATE AND SMEAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST KENYA AND UGANDA MUST APY FOR ALL GOODS AND SERVICES SHE HAS RECEIVED OR WUSHES TO RECEIVE FROM

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KENYA. HOWEVER, SEVENTH POINT -- THAT UGANDA "MUST NOT HOLD AS HOSTAGES THE NEIGHBORING STATES OF BURUNDI, RWANDA, SUDAN AND ZAIRE BY CONFISCATING GOODS DESTINED TO THESE COUNTRIES" -- IS INNOVATION PRESUMABLY DESIGNED TO DIVERT PRESSURE TO UGANDA THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY APPLYING TO KENYA. HIGH GOK OFFICIAL TOLD CHARGE THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT INNOVATION IN GOK FOREIGN POLICY WAS PLANNED TO TAKE PLACE LATER TODAY WHEN ALL AMBASSADORS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES WERE TO BE CALLED IN AND WARNED TO STOP SUPPORTING UGANDA. IN SIMILAR VEIN, DAILY NATION TODAY PUBLISHED HIGHLY CRITICAL EDITORIAL ON ARAB COUNTRIES AND THEIR ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR UGANDA (REPORTED BY USINFO). KUWAIT WAS PARTICULARLY SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM.

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